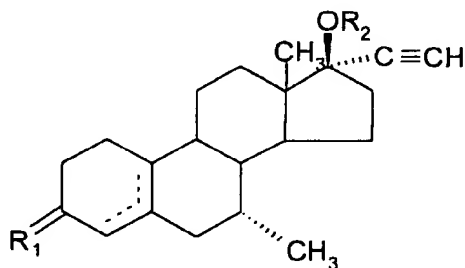


I. In the Claims (Clean Sheet)

1. A method of inhibiting the atherosclerotic process, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a 7 α -methyl-17 α -ethynyl-estrane derivative having the general formula 1



Formula I

wherein

 $R_1 = \text{H}(\text{OR}_3) \text{ or } \text{O};$ $R_2 = \text{H or } (\text{C}_{1-18})\text{Acyl};$ $R_3 = \text{H or } (\text{C}_{1-18})\text{Acyl};$

and the dotted line represents a double bond in the 4, 5- or the 5, 10-position.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein $R_1 = \text{H, OH or O}.$
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein $R_2 = \text{H}$ and the dotted line represents a double bond in the 5, 10-position.